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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/828,617	04/21/2004	Christopher J. Scafidi	016295.1607 (DC-06227)	5833

23640 7590 09/27/2006

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EXAMINER

FIGUEROA, FELIX O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 09/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/828,617	Applicant(s) SCAFIDI ET AL.	
	Examiner Felix O. Figueroa	Art Unit 2833	—

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-12 and 19-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-12 and 19-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

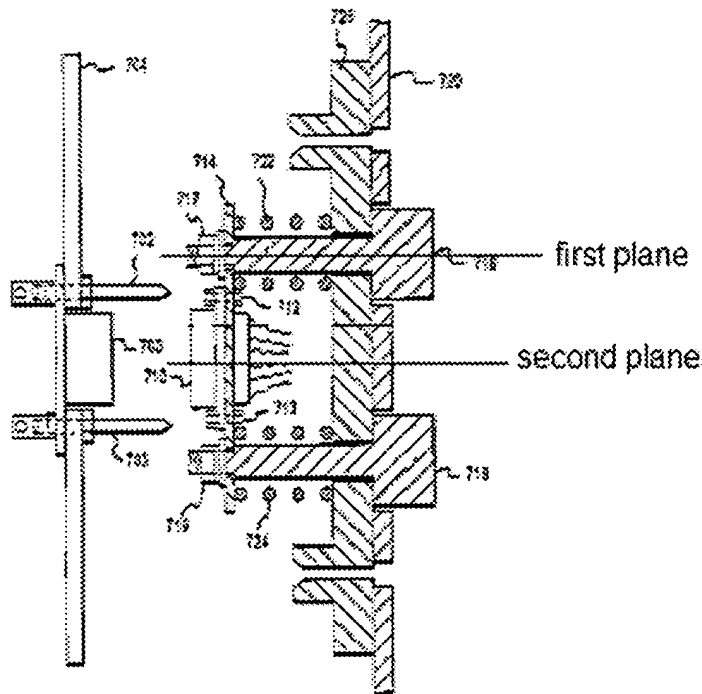
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 4, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Komenda et al. (US 6,592,387).

Komenda discloses a spring-loaded assembly for coupling a connector (710) to a computer component comprising: an assembly housing (720,726) operable to receive a portion of a screw (716) used to couple the connector to a chassis (720,726) of an information handling system, so that the assembly housing is located in a first plane and the connector is located in a second plane (see following figure), the first plane offset from and generally parallel to the second plane (see following figure); a sliding block (714) disposed in the assembly housing and operably engaged with the screw, the sliding block operable to linearly translate the connector between a first position and a second position within the second plane; and a spring (722) placed between the sliding block and at least one wall of the assembly housing, the spring disposed within the first plane and operable to provide an axial force to bias the connector towards the first position, whereby coupling the connector to the computer component causes the

connector to move to a connected position intermediate the first position and the second position.



Regarding claim 4, Komenda discloses the spring-loaded assembly being formed on a portion of the chassis of an information handling system.

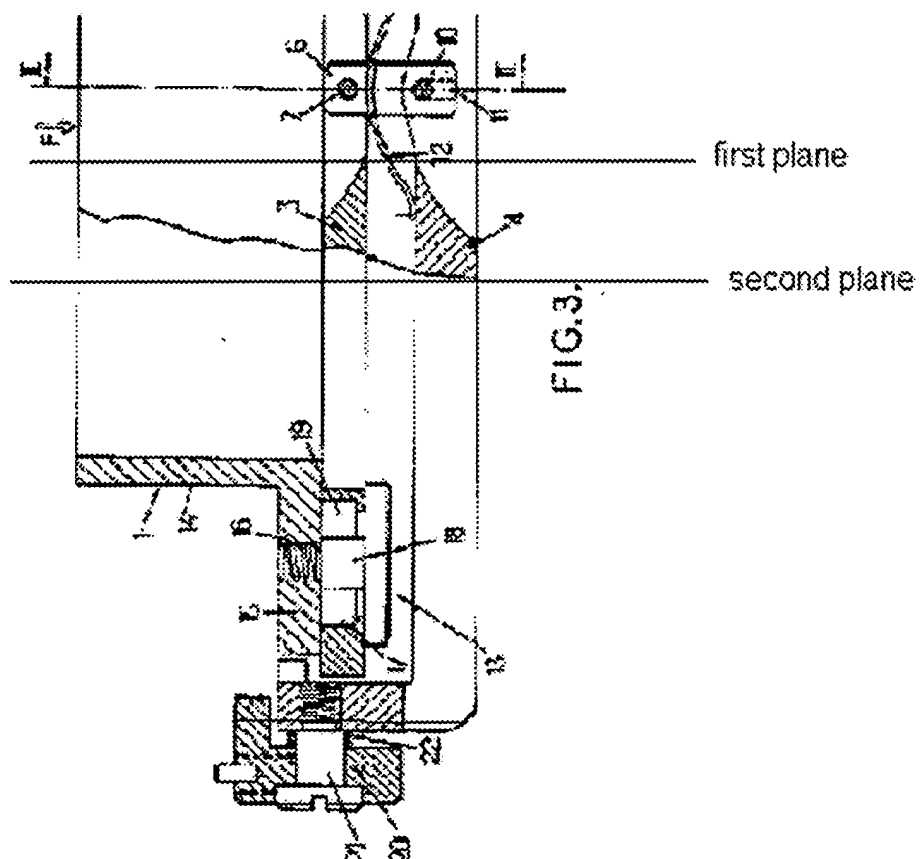
Regarding claim 7, Komenda discloses wherein the axial force comprising a connector insertion force.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Villiers et al. (US 5,318,455).

Villiers discloses a spring-loaded assembly for coupling a connector (1) to a computer component comprising: an assembly housing (4) operable to receive a portion of a screw (18) used to couple the connector to a chassis (by 2) of an information handling system, so that the assembly housing is located in a first plane and the

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connector is located in a second plane (see following Figure), the first plane offset from and generally parallel to the second plane (see following figure); a sliding block (3) disposed in the assembly housing and operably engaged with the screw, the sliding block operable to move the connector between a first position and a second position; and a spring (12) placed between the sliding block and at least one wall of the assembly housing, the spring operable provides an axial force to bias the connector to a first position, whereby coupling the connector to the computer component causes the connector to move to a connected position intermediate the first and second position.



Regarding claim 2, Villiers discloses an extension member (6) coupled to and extending from the block, the extension member operable to guide the movement of the spring.

Regarding claim 3, Villiers discloses an end stop (at 11) coupled to the assembly wall adjacent the spring, the end stop operable to interact with the extension member to fix the position of the second position.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6, 8-12 and 19-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komenda.

Regarding claim 6, Komenda discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the specific connector. However, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a known connector, such as a modified SATA connector in order to provide good performance while reducing cost.

Regarding claim 8, Komenda discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the memory coupled to a processor. However, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the connector and spring loaded assembly of Komenda within known systems, such as an

information handling system with a memory coupled to a processor in order to provide a reliable and efficient electrical connection to the information handling system.

Regarding claims 9, Komenda discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the computer component being a hard disk drive. However, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the connector and spring loaded assembly of Komenda to connect to a known computer component, such as a hard disk drive, in order to provide a reliable and efficient electrical connection to the hard disk drive.

Regarding claim 10, Komenda discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the specific connector. However, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a known connector, such as a modified SATA connector in order to provide good performance while reducing cost.

Regarding claim 11, Komenda discloses the connected position varying based on variations in manufacturing tolerances of the computer component.

Regarding claim 12, Komenda discloses the spring-loaded assembly further comprises a guide pin (702) operable to align the electrical contacts of the connector with the mated electrical contacts of the computer component.

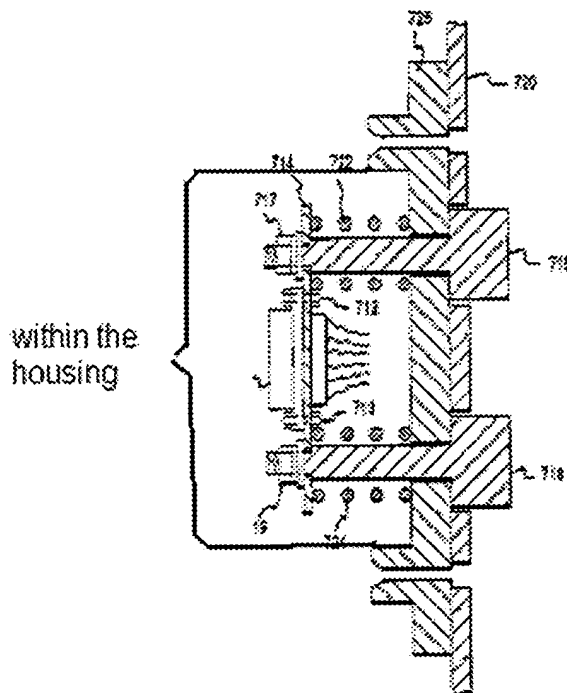
Regarding claims 19-24, Komenda discloses the method claimed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 07/31/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to Applicant's argument (on Komenda) regarding elements 720 and 726, please note that the combination of these elements define the housing.

In response to Applicant's argument that the mounting plate is not housed within elements 720 and 726, please note that at least when the mounted plate is pushed backwards (right in Fig. 7) the mounting plate is within the housing (see following figure).



In response to Applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., the spring being housed within the housing) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

In response to Applicant's argument that "sliding block 714 is not disposed in a plane parallel to the planes identified by the examiner", it is noted that such feature is not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

In response to Applicant's argument that the Villiers fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., the constrained translation) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Please note that the claim only requires "operable to linearly translate the connector between a first and a second position". If Villiers allows six degrees of freedom, it will also allow linear translation.

In response to Applicant's argument that "the Examiner failed to cite Komenda properly and with sufficient specificity... to allow Applicant to adequately respond to the rejections", it is first noted that Applicant has not pointed out that Komenda lacks any particular element in claims 6, 8-12 and 19-24. It is also note that all of the limitations of claims 6,8-12 and 19-24 are discussed in the explanation on each particular claim as well as the explanation on previously discussed claims. Taking claim 19 as an example, please note that the limitations of claim 19 have been substantially discussed previously, for example with respect to claim 1. Furthermore, the discussion on claim 8 explains those limitations not discussed regarding claim 1. If applicable, Applicant

should point out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references.


In response to Applicant's argument that Komenda does not disclose "the positioning of the 1) assembly housing, 2) sliding block, and 3) spring elements in a first plane that is "offset from and generally parallel to the second plane" in which "the connector is located", please refer to the figure shown in the discussion of claim 1 (over Komenda) in which such positioning is shown.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix O. Figueroa whose telephone number is (571) 272-2003. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 10:00am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Felix O. Figueroa
Art Unit 2833